

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 08384 151814Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
-----122689 151818Z /47

O 151805Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6746
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 08384

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, EG, IS, LE
SUBJECT: GOE REQUEST THAT USG ISSUE STATEMENT
- CONDEMNING ISRAELI INVASION OF LEBANON

1. FONMIN KAMEL ASKED ME TO CALL THIS EVENING. HE WAS
IN A VERY EMOTIONAL STATE. READING FROM A PREPARED TEXT,
HE NOTED USG HAS NOT THUS FAR ISSUED ANY STATEMENT ON
ISRAELI INVASION OF LEBANON. THIS IS EXTREMELY EMBARRAS-
SING FOR GOE. OUR FAILURE TO DO SO CAN THREATEN PEACE
INITIATIVE.

2. ISRAEL, KAMEL CONTINUED, IS ATTACKING
LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY AND SEEKING TO EXTERMINATE THE
PALESTINIANS. THE SIZE OF THE ISRAELI REPRISAL IS OUT
OF ALL PROPORTION TO THE INCIDENT THAT PROMPTED IT.
THE ISRAELI MOVE INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON IS NOTHING SHORT
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OF WAR.

3. KAMEL NOTED THAT SADAT, AT OUR URGING, HAD YESTERDAY
DEPLORED AND CONDEMNED ALL ACTS OF VIOLENCE LEADING TO
THE KILLING OF CIVILIANS. (KAMEL INTERJECTED THAT WE
HAD GOTTEN OUR WAY ON THIS AND INDICATED THAT HE FELT
SADAT MAY HAVE GONE TOO FAR IN SOME OF HIS PUBLIC COM-

MENTS.) GOE HAD HOPED THAT ISRAEL WOULD TAKE SADAT'S PUBLIC CONDEMNATION INTO ACCOUNT AND ACT MORE SERIOUSLY TO SAVE THE PEACE PROCESS.

4. THERE IS A GREAT DIFFERENCE, KAMEL INSISTED, BETWEEN LAST SATURDAY'S INCIDENT CONDUCTED BY PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN DENIED THEIR RIGHTS BY ISRAEL AND WHO ARE TRYING TO RECOVER THEM AND "TERRORIST ACTIONS COMMITTED BY A STATE" AS ISRAEL IS PRESENTLY DOING. ISRAEL STILL SEEMS TO BE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT ITS SECURITY CAN BEST BE GUARANTEED THROUGH "AGGRESSION AND EXPANSION." LAST SATURDAY'S INCIDENT SHOULD HAVE SHOWN THE ISRAELI LEADERSHIP THAT THIS IS NOT THE WAY. THE ONLY WAY TO ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM IS TO GRANT THE PALESTINIANS THEIR RIGHTS.

5. GOE, KAMEL SAID, IS ASKING USG TO PRESS ISRAEL TO STOP ITS AGGRESSION AGAINST LEBANON AND THE PALESTINIANS AT ONCE AND WITHDRAW FROM LEBANON. GOE ALSO HOPES THAT USG WILL ISSUE A STRONG STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE VIOLENCE AND KILLING BEING PERPETRATED BY THE ISRAELI MILITARY AGAINST INNOCENT PALESTINIANS. GOE HOPES THAT SUCH A STATEMENT WILL BE AS STRONG AS WAS OUR CONDEMNATION OF SATURDAY'S INCIDENT.

6. GOE ALSO HOPES USG WILL STRONGLY ADVISE BEGIN THAT
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HIS CHALLENGE TO WORLD PUBLIC OPINION IS NOT HELPING THE PEACE EFFORT. ONLY WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH U.N. RESOLUTIONS, WILL BRING PEACE. KAMEL AGAIN NOTED THAT SADAT HAD GONE OUT OF HIS WAY YESTERDAY, AT OUR REQUEST, TO CONDEMN LAST SATURDAY'S INCIDENT. HE THOUGHT IT WAS NOW INCUMBENT UPON US TO MAKE A STATEMENT THAT WILL ASSIST SADAT AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME.

7. KAMEL ALSO REFERRED TO STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO GENERAL GUR OF ISRAELI INTENTION TO RETAIN A SEVEN TO EIGHT MILE-WIDE SECURITY BELT IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. THIS, KAMEL SAID, WOULD BE VERY SERIOUS. THE SOONER THE ISRAELIS GET OUT, THE BETTER. OTHERWISE THERE ARE BOUND TO BE MORE COMPLICATIONS.

8. KAMEL HAD ALSO CALLED U.K. AMBASSADOR MORRIS, WHO WAS SCHEDULED TO SEE HIM NEXT. HE NOTED THAT HMG HAD ISSUED A STATEMENT, BUT IT WAS NOT VERY GOOD. USG, HE AGAIN DEPLORED, HAD ISSUED ABSOLUTELY NOTHING. THIS OMISSION IS EMBARRASSING TO GOE IN GENERAL AND SADAT IN PARTICULAR.

9. KAMEL ALSO TOLD ME THAT GOE WILL THIS EVENING ISSUE A CONDEMNATORY STATEMENT, BUT MADE A POINT OF ASSURING ME THAT IT WILL BE CAST IN MODERATE TERMS SO THAT IT DOES NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE PEACE PROCESS.

10. I CONFINED MY COMMENT TO ASSURING KAMEL THAT I WOULD REPORT HIS REQUEST AT ONCE. AS I WAS LEAVING, EGYPTIAN JOURNALIST ASKED IF KAMEL HAD GIVEN ME A FORMAL PROTEST FOR TRANSMISSION TO GOI. I ANSWERED IN THE NEGATIVE. ASKED WHETHER KAMEL HAD GIVEN ME ANY KIND OF A MESSAGE, I CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD GIVEN ME AN ORAL MESSAGE FOR USG, BUT GAVE NO DETAILS. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS, REPRISALS, TERRORISTS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO08384
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780115-0660
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780367/aaaacest.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 205dcec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3328622
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOE REQUEST THAT USG ISSUE STATEMENT - CONDEMNING ISRAELI INVASION OF LEBANON
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, EG, IS, LE, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/205dcec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014